

American Petroleum Institute (API)

API Background: API is comprised of more than 600 members include large integrated companies, as well as exploration and production, refining, marketing, pipeline, and marine businesses, and service and supply firms. In addition to their advocacy, API's certification programs verify manufacturers of production, drilling, and refinery equipment comply with industry and regulatory standards.

Meeting Attendees: Mike Sommers, CEO

Relevant Background: May 2018, API announced Mike Sommers would replace outgoing President and CEO, Jack Gerard, effective September 1, 2018. Sommers most recently led the American Investment Council (ACI), formerly the Private Equity Growth Capital Council. ACI is a trade association founded in 2007 by a consortium of private equity firms including The BlackStone Group, The Carlyle Group, Madison Dearborn, Silver Lake Partners, among others.

Sommers spent two decades in the U.S. House of Representatives and the White House, including as chief of staff for Speaker of the House John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) and Special Assistant to President George W. Bush at the National Economic Council.

Sommers a graduate of Miami University and his wife, Jill Sommers, served two terms as a commissioner of the Commodity Futures and Trading Commission (2002-2009; 2009-2012).

Potential Topics of Discussion: While primarily an introductory meeting, OAR staff have been informed that Mr. Sommers will bring up the status of EPA's reconsideration of the 2016 Oil and Gas New Source Performance Standard (NSPS), which is often referred to as the "Methane Rule" or "OOOOa". Regarding President Trump's E15/RIN market reform announcement, Mr. Sommers may bring up the results of a new national poll (conducted on behalf of API) showing most voters are concerned about the expanded E15 sales, fuel compatibility, and the potential for misfuelling. API's October 29, 2018 press release is below and additional background on the Methane Rule and President's E15/RIN market reform announcement are attached.

NEW POLL SHOWS MAJORITY OF VOTERS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT EXPANDING THE SALE OF E15 GASOLINE

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WASHINGTON, October 29, 2018 – Today the American Petroleum Institute released the results of a [[HYPERLINK "https://www.api.org/news-policy-and-issues/fuels-and-renewable-policy/e15-rfs-poll-results-2018"](https://www.api.org/news-policy-and-issues/fuels-and-renewable-policy/e15-rfs-poll-results-2018)] conducted by Harris Poll, showing that the vast majority of voters are concerned about the Trump administration’s proposal to allow the year-round sale of higher ethanol blended E15 gasoline.

“Consumers are speaking loud and clear,” said [[HYPERLINK "https://www.api.org/news-policy-and-issues/testimony-and-speeches/2018/10/26/e15-poll-opening-statement-press-call"](https://www.api.org/news-policy-and-issues/testimony-and-speeches/2018/10/26/e15-poll-opening-statement-press-call)] “These numbers reinforce the need for the administration to reconsider this decision to allow year-round sale of E15. Voters understand that allowing sale of a fuel that is not designed for nearly 75 percent of cars on the road today puts consumers at risk. American families should not have to be burdened with an unexpected car repair bill because of a fuel that our government essentially pushed into the marketplace against the clear letter of the law.

“E15 is symptom of the broken Renewable Fuel Standard and it’s time for real reform. There is bipartisan agreement that the RFS is a failure and we urge the administration to support consensus legislation to significantly reform the RFS for the benefit of all consumers.”

Key poll results:

- 79 percent of voters are concerned about expanded E15 sales and vehicle incompatibility.
- 83 percent of voters are concerned that consumers could shoulder higher pump prices if service stations are forced to invest in new infrastructure to accommodate certain types of fuels.
- 68 percent of voters are concerned about consumers mistakenly using E15 and causing damage to their engines.
- 81 percent of voters are concerned that government requirements could exceed the 10 percent level of ethanol in the nation’s fuel supply which studies have shown could increase gasoline prices by up to 26 cents per gallon.

The [[HYPERLINK "https://www.api.org/news-policy-and-issues/fuels-and-renewable-policy/e15-rfs-poll-results-2018"](https://www.api.org/news-policy-and-issues/fuels-and-renewable-policy/e15-rfs-poll-results-2018)] results are posted on the [[HYPERLINK "https://www.api.org/news-policy-and-issues/fuels-and-renewable-policy/e15-rfs-poll-results-2018"](https://www.api.org/news-policy-and-issues/fuels-and-renewable-policy/e15-rfs-poll-results-2018)].

Methodology

OAR Meeting Memo for Administrator Wheeler
Wednesday, October 31, 2018 – American Petroleum Institute

The study was conducted on October 12-16, 2018, by telephone by Harris Poll on behalf of the American Petroleum Institute among 1001 registered voters across the U.S., with a sampling error of +/- 3.1 percent. A full methodology is available upon request.

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